

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas

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TWO PLEAD GUILTY TO FILING FALSE INCOME TAX RETURNS

<u>Little Rock</u> – U. S. Attorney Bud Cummins announced that Louis F. Pirani (dob: 8/4/1964), and his wife, Angela L. Pirani (dob: 9/18/74), both of Marion, Arkansas, pled guilty before U.S. District Judge William R. Wilson, Jr., today.

Angela Pirani pled guilty to a one count Superseding Information charging her with filing a false income tax return with the Internal Revenue Service for 1998. According to the Plea Agreement filed in court, Angela admitted that the return was fraudulent as to a material matter in that it did not include income that should have been reported. The plea agreement also states that the agreed tax loss is \$28, 874.77. Angela faces a maximum penalty of up to one year in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Louis Pirani pled guilty to one count of filing a false income tax return for 1998 and admitted that the return was false as to income reported. Louis Pirani was indicted on May 7, 2003, and charged with three counts of filing false income tax returns for 1997, 1998 and 1999. Angela Pirani was indicted with her husband regardin the 1998 and 1999 returns. According to the plea agreement, Louis pled guilty to count two of the indictment and admitted that the amount of tax loss is \$43,383.00. Louis' plea agreement also states that he agrees to restitution to the Internal Revenue Service of the tax loss amount. Louis faces a maximum penalty of 3 years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000. Sentencing is set for April 27, 2005.

Louis Pirani was convicted in February 2003 of lying to federal investigators in 2001 during a police corruption investigation. He was sentenced in June 2003, to serve five months in prison and five months in home detention. Louis has filed an appeal which is still pending.

This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen D. Coleman represented the United States.

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